Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

The Pacific

h Year JANUARY, 1927 No. 1

NEW YEAR'S MEDITATION

y the Assistant Superintendent

ıe ability to sense the wonder of in its long development on the ı is one of the arts that invest an interest with a tonic sanity. ıe thing that inspires wonder in as I contemplate life, is the fact s varied appeal. Running through entire scale of human experience, ı surface beauty to deepest pas- I seem to catch a note of invi- n.

ewed externally, especially in this ern land, one is never more con- as of this varied appeal than at turn of the year, when Nature suing a fresh batch of invitations. now she is robing herself in ndor. Listening, one can hear the ities of the field saying, Come. y rose in every garden is saying, e. The recesses of the forest are ng, Come. Dashing wave, lilting whispering pine, dripping oar Come.

nd this is because what the het said long ago, that "the world made to be inhabited," is true. to be expected that in the pres- of these invitations, something abering in every one of us should ken, for they emphasize anew our hip to nature. It is borne in upon hat out yonder in the open is our ve heath, out there where the race cradled.

ot only are these surface appeals mbedded within us that we cannot st them, but the spiritual urge is e also.

e have been taught to regard our estors as rude, narrowly removed n the beasts. But when one looks reciatively into the dim past, and ly understands that these untu- d denizens of the wild somehow overed and tested out the very gs which we most cherish today, views them with deepening won- and respect. Under these circum- ices, humility becomes us, for we, ı our boasted superiority, tread the path none too successfully even . Yet they found it!

ı one thing we may well envy se pioneers of the race: Out in the n they enjoyed a simple, free, nor- existence, the like of which we only dream, so utterly has the ck of it gone from us.

ut somehow they turned the trick; overed in their rude beginnings elements that constitute essential Little aided, apparently, they nd out there food and love and . There the home took form; there table was spread; there the strong of affection was lifted in protec- ı; and there was erected the first r for worship.

nd all that was achieved was done, ow, by the simple yielding of hu- ı hearts to life's immemorial al- ments. For we must believe that se invitations to the enrichment of have ever been operative. And ays, as now, men have been hon- d with free choice in the vast field choices made possible by these ied appeals.

t this season these invitations, h physical and spiritual, are bid- g us to invest our store of time talents wisely in treasures "that not old."

OUR SUPERINTENDENT

r. W. J. Minchin left San Fran- o Tuesday night, January 4, for east, to be gone about three ks. While East he will attend the l-winter conference in Chicago.

ONE HUNDRED DOZEN MEN

Twelve hundred men met around the luncheon tables of the San Francisco Commercial Club Wednesday, December 22nd. The lighting, the decorations, the tables, the meal itself, were all in harmony with the Christmas period. Among those present were men high in commercial, social and religious circles—Protestant, Catholic, Jew, we are in the habit of saying—not here, however. They were a brotherhood of commercial leaders.

The program was artistic, remarkably so. It was devout, impressively so. It was effective, wonderfully effective. The orchestra was colorful, even brilliant, but not obtrusive. It was under the direction of Cyrus Trobbe and played a symphonic arrangement of Adeste Fideles. Again and again in that beautiful arrangement came the triumphant strains "Oh, come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant," and near the close the chanters filled the room with its full melody. These chanters sang as well "Hark, the Herald angels sing," and likewise made the chorus at the excellent rendering of "Noel" by Harrison Coles. Rudy Seiger was a minstrel and his violin melted many hearts with lovely strains. There was a "Teller of Tales" Leland M. Cutler. His recitative was a classic to the orchestra strains of Holy Night. He spoke of the value of the pause in the life of business at the noon hour of a busy week. Of children's voices in so many festive occasions. Of the recurring sentiment of holy days, with its comedy and tragedy.

One hundred dozen men felt better for the occasion. Barriers were broken down. Many contrasted the hour with the jazz of other occasions and testified that it was good.

Why do we report it? Because it cheered the heart of a Conference Superintendent and assured him that the Christian message is carried in artistic and devout manner to the throbbing ear of a great city at the noontime of a busy day in a busy week.

There was applause. It was dignified, one might say celestial. There were awakened memories and kind words said to friends whose joy is not the same this Christmas as at other times. It was but one of many manifestations of a new day for Christian leadership. God bless our men!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS IN CHINESE CHURCHES

The Superintendent had special invitations from three Chinese churches to attend their Christmas exercises. These churches even arranged their dates that he might be at all three. The churches were Chinese, San Francisco, where a throng of children were in attendance with characteristic Chinese music blended with truly American recitations. There was a large tree wonderfully decorated and the presents were numerous.

The Berkeley Chinese had a most original and attractive program with a playlet "Mother Goose Land" to the setting of a modern Santa Claus. A fine group of young Chinese students handled the festivities under the direction of Dr. B. C. Wong.

The Sacramento Chinese featured their exercises with a Cantata entitled "The Same Old Santa Claus." It was well rendered to a crowded house. The program was repeated the next night at Pioneer Memorial Church.

A FRESNO CHRISTMAS

Fresno High School has occasional "Community Nights" when faculty, students, and parents cooperate in presenting the program. The small expense involved is paid by charging an admission of 10c per family. The auditorium which seats 2200 was well filled on a recent evening when a Christmas program was given. One of the dramatics classes gave a delightful Christmas play, "The Dolls." There followed an impressive Nativity Pageant; processional and recessional by the combined boys' and girls' glee clubs, the reading by heralds of the simple biblical records of Jesus' birth, punctuated with many familiar carols by an invisible choir,—all in a room lighted only by the electric candles of the procession leaders and the flood-lights on the figures of the heralds. It was an evening long to be remembered. Boys and girls of many denominations and many races had cooperated in the presentation of a deeply religious program.

THE LIGHT SHINES

One of our Christian ladies employed by a large firm with a large sales force was recently asked for suggestions concerning the holiday spirit. She suggested that in addition to the ordinary decoration and advertising that the sales force meet weekly for the singing of Christmas carols and at an annual banquet they dignify it by having grace offered at the table. She let her light shine in a seemingly alien atmosphere. The sales force entered into the arrangements heartily and the management gave generous approval. It was a courageous bit of preaching. It was done naturally and gracefully. It did not offend a non-Christian race.

OVERSEAS SERVICE

The Conference Office is just in receipt of a list of "Openings for Service Overseas." This list covers needed workers, both men and women, teachers, physicians, nurses, agriculturalists, ministers, general, some fifty or more in number. Anyone who would be interested to work on the foreign field, with a choice of many countries, should get in touch with the office, and we will be glad to introduce them to the proper secretaries of the American Board.

WHO WILL BE FIRST?

The Chinese Congregational Church in Berkeley is in need of 100 chairs. Suitable chairs can be purchased at $2.00 each. We request those who can respond to this appeal, through individual gifts or by organizations, to send checks to F. P. Cole, Conference Treasurer, at 421 Phelan Building, San Francisco. How many chairs will you take?

THE SCRIPTURES BY RADIO

In keeping with the Nation-Wide Simultaneous Bible Reading Revival, promoted by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, Secretary A. Wesley Mell, of the Pacific Agency, American Bible Society, has announced for the broadcasting by KPO Station—Hale Bros. and The Chronicle, daily noon-day Scripture reading from the Gospel by Luke during the month of January, and from the Book of Acts during the month of February, 1927.

FACING THE NEW YEAR

The milestone of another year
I pass with purpose firm and clear
Each day this year to do my best,
Whate'er may be the hourly test.

All that I've planned and carried through
And all I've tried and failed to do
Shall guide me on my homeward way;
Tomorrow is an untried day.

The Voice Divine still pleads with me:
"Be all that you were meant to be;
The new year is your open door;
Press on, aim high, I do implore!"

Throughout this year my task shall be
A daily sacrament to me;
My work shall serve both God and man;
This is the Master Builder's plan.

I have not passed this way before;
The years I've spent return no more;
But once I live this fateful hour,
But once I grasp its mystic power.

O Power Divine, work Thou through me;
My brain and hands I yield to Thee;
This year inspire, direct, control,
Be Thou the Master of my soul!

—Henry Stauffer.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Pacific School

An exceedingly interesting program is promised this year as the basis of the annual pastoral conference of the Pacific School of Religion, February 8, 9 and 10. This conference is open to ministers of all denominations and makes a fine clearing house for the best each has to contribute.

Among the speakers are Bruce Curry, chairman this year of the Milwaukee Students' Convention, now on the staff of the Union Theological Seminary, but this semester giving courses in Pacific School of Religion, known and loved from coast to coast as a quickening teacher of English Bible; Dr. William Allbright, the noted archaeologist; Jay T. Stocking of Montclair, N. J., inimitable teller for stories for youth; Bishop Burns, who always opens the door into truth with a peculiar felicity and hospitality; Prof. Kenneth J. Saunders, a first authority on oriental religions, just returned from a fifteen-months' study of life in India and Japan, always sparkling and searching; Lloyd Douglas, a really human minister and writer on parish matters, will discuss the problems of the pastor.

The Earl Lectures, given each evening by Prof. Theodore Soares of Chicago University on Religion in Education, will be open to all.

Every minister who can ought to make his soul beneficiary of this remarkable stimulus.

BAY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Special attention is called to the putting forward of the date of the meeting to Tuesday, February 15th, as the announced date conflicts with the Pastoral Conference. The meeting will be held in North Church, Berkeley.

EUROPEAN TOUR

We are interested to learn that Dr. Kloss of our San Mateo Church, is planning his fifth Europeon tour, the best itinerary, we understand, he has so far outlined.

AN EXPLANATION

Some of our friends have sent in renewals to their subscriptions about the 10th of the month, or after, and feel that we have neglected them when we have not changed the date on the current issue of The Pacific. We want these friends to know that it is not oversight on our part or neglect. Each month, about the 1st of the month, we get out a list of renewals, changes of address, new subscriptions and removals, sometimes several pages long, which we send over to the mailers to have stencils cut and correct our list. It takes time to get all this done. We are supposed to have The Pacific in the mails on the 10th of the month. So, if you do not get in your renewal before the 1st of the month, we can not get the date changed on your paper until the following month. Scarcely a month goes by in which we do not have a complaint that some one sent in a renewal and the date was not changed. Will our friends please bear these facts in mind and have patience with us?

We are also receiving some few reports from people who have not been receiving their Pacific. And then this last week we had a letter from one who had been receiving a bundle of them, and who asked to be relieved of the job of distributing them to the various addresses on the several papers in the bundle. As an explanation of this we would say that our mailers, on instructions from the Post Office Department, tie all papers for each local post office together. The local postmaster is supposed to cut this string and distribute the papers to each address. But in some cases the postmaster does not understand this, and delivers them all to the address which happens to be on top. We are taking this matter up with the mailers, and hope we can get the Post Office Department to instruct heir local officers how to handle such mail. But until this matter is straightened out, if you do not receive your Pacific, please ask the postmaster for it. It should be in your hands within a few days after the 10th of each month (except July, when we do not publish any issue). If it is not, ask your postmaster first, and then notify us.

MRS. ERWIN

The Santa Rosa church met with a great loss in the passing just before Christmas, of Mrs. Emma Lovejoy Erwin. Mrs. Erwin was a native of California, receiving her education in Visalia, Tulare, and the University of California. For many years she was a successful teacher in the schools of Visalia and Tulare. In 1903 she was married to Mr. Erwin of Santa Rosa and became a member of the Congregational Church. She was a most efficient Sunday School teacher giving the best of her training and experience to her work. She served as Superintendent of the Sunday School, as well as, at various times, the superintendent of the Primary, Junior, and Intermediate departments. In this capacity she touched the lives of large numbers of children. Her heart and home were always open to the members of her classes, and those who call her blessed are many in number. In addition to her church duties which always took first place with her, Mrs. Erwin was a member of various civic clubs in the city. In these as well as in her church connections she was a prized member. Her passing leaves both church and community the poorer for having lost her, but richer in the memory of all she has added to their lives. Of her it can be truly said,

"None knew her but to love her
None named her but to praise."

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Article I
Name

The name of this organization is Federation of Congregational Women of northern California.

Article II
Purpose

The purpose of the Federation is to foster Christian Service throughout the churches; to cultivate intelligence and interest in the State, National and International work of the Congregational Churches of the United States in extending the kingdom of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ; and to enlist earnest and sympathetic co-operation with the Northern California Conference to do and promote the work for which the Conference is responsible. The Federation shall act also as a medium of co-operation in interdenominational work.

Article III
Membership

All women of the Congregational Churches of Northern California are members of this organization by virtue of their membership in and affiliation with such churches.

Article IV
Officers

Sec. 1. The officers of the Federation shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, Associational presidents, Auditor, a Board of eighteen Directors and such other officers as the organization shall from time to time determine.

Article V
Elections

Sec. 1. The officers, with the exception of the directors, shall be elected each year at the annual meeting by ballot. They shall serve one year or until their successors are elected. Six directors shall be elected each year at the annual meeting by ballot. They shall serve three years, or until their successors are elected.

Sec. 2. There shall be an Advisory Board of at least fifteen members to be appointed by the Executive Board.

Article VI
Government

Sec. 1. The government of this organization and the management of its affairs shall be vested in an Executive Board consisting of the directors and the other officers. The Board shall hold regular meetings at such time and place as it may determine. Eleven members shall constitute a quorum at any duly notified meeting.

Sec. 2. The Executive Board shall have full power to transact all necessary business to carry into effect the purpose of the Federation. It shall have power also to fill all vacancies until the annual meeting, upon presentation of names by the nominating committee.

Sec. 3. The Executive Board shall appoint all necessary committees.

Sec. 4. The nominating committee shall consist of three members to serve three years. One member shall be elected each year. The senior member shall be chairman and retire at the end of the year.

Article VII
Meetings

The annual and other public meetings shall be held at the call of the Executive Board. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Board of Directors. Twenty-one members shall constitute a quorum at any duly notified public meeting.

Article VIII
Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any public meeting of the Federation, provided at least two months notice has been given to Associational Presidents.

BY-LAWS

I
Duties of Officers

Sec. 1. The President shall have oversight of the interests of the Federation and shall preside at all meetings of the organization, and at all meetings of the Executive Board, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

Sec. 2. The Vice-Presidents in the order of their elections shall act in the absence of the President.

Sec. 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the meetings of the Executive Board and shall present a report at the annual meeting and other public meetings. She shall send notice of the time and place of aforesaid meetings and perform duties usually devolving upon the Recording Secretary.

Sec. 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall correspond and advise with the Associational Presidents, and keep a careful record of interesting facts and items gained through the year to report on or publish from time to time.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer shall receive all money designated for the organization and shall disburse the same as directed by the Executive Board. She shall report at all regular meetings of the Executive Board and shall present a regular audited report at the annual meeting of the organization.

II
Voting Membership

The voting membership of public meetings shall consist of the Executive and Advisory Boards and three regularly accredited delegates from each church.

III

The fiscal year shall end January first.

IV

These by-laws may be amended or added to by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the Executive Boards, notice having been given at a previous meeting.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For several years our National ... ciety for Ministerial Relief has be... appealing for an annual gift to ch... aged Ministers or Ministers' Wido... and they have sent to the State C... ference a liberal proportion for ... tribution. The check to us this y... was $601.44, which we distributed ... nineteen beneficiaries of our own ... lief Society.

We are in receipt of some most ... preciative letters from these wor... people, one of whom is 91 years ... age. There is no greater pleas... than to be able to make this distri... tion unless it would be the ability ... make it out of one's own pocket.

BERKELEY—NORTH

Effort is being made to make t... "The Church Beautiful." Under ... rection of Prof. Babcock over si... choice shrubs have been planted ... later two little trees of the Cypres... sempervirens (Old World Cypre... species grown from seeds collected ... the Garden of Gethsemane, will ... planted in the recessed corners ... the front of the church. In the spri... the church will be painted and ... lawns improved. The church held ... midnight service Christmas Eve a... the Christmas Vespers brought ... crowded house. The pastor, R... Walter B. Williams, is planning ... Sunday evening Gospel Services d... ing January.

SOQUEL

The pastor reports exceptional ... tendance at the prayer meetings ... the past two months, the avera... number in attendance being with... four of the average Sunday morn... church service. He also reports t... young people's activities as very pro... ising.

SEBASTOPOL

The many church members a... friends present at the reception ... ranged for Rev. and Mrs. B. Dent N... lor afforded ample proof of the este... of the entire community for t... worthy couple. The occasion was ... honor of the tenth anniversary of t... popular pastor's assuming charge ... the Congregational Church of Seba... opol.

The parlors of the church w... filled to capacity, and a short progr... preceded the general reception a... social evening. A beautiful cons... model Stewart-Warner Radio was p... sented to Mr. and Mrs. Naylor as ... token of the regard of their pari... ioners and friends.

NEW BOOKS

The Spiritual Element in Histo... by Robert W. McLaughlin. 312 pag... price $2.50. The Abingdon Press, N... York City.

Learning to live, a course for J... iors, nine to eleven, by Marion ... Hawthorne, prepared in cooperati... with the International Association ... Daily Vacation Bible Schools. Tea... er's Manual, pages 296, price $1 ... plus postage. Pupil's Book, 101 pag... price 60 cents, plus postage. T... Abington Press, New York City.

The Methodist Year Book 19... Oliver S. Baketel, Editor. 304 pag... price 50 cents. The Methodist Bo... Concern, New York City.

TO OUR PASTORS

We have a number of books on ha... which have not been taken out ... review. If you would like to revi... any of them, they would be yours ... keep. Look over the list each mo... and see if there are any listed th... you would like. Then let us know a... we will hold them for you. First co... first served.

ACTS AND FIGURES ON WEEK-DAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The week-day church school movement had its definite beginning in Gary, Indiana, in 1914. A few churches had been carrying on week-day work some years; however, the work Gary was the first to assume community-wide scope and attract general attention. During the last twelve years the movement has become nation-wide with week-day church schools being held in forty or more states. In about half of these states the schools are being held in time which is released for this purpose by the public schools. Approximately 1,100 cities and towns throughout the country are conducting about 2500 week-day church schools which enroll over 250,000 pupils.

Notable progress has been made in establishing these schools in several cities. Kansas City, Kansas, has over 5,000 pupils in these schools. Dayton, Ohio, has about the same enrollment. Rochester, New York; Toledo, Ohio; Bridgeport, Conn.; and Wichita, Kansas, have large and successful organizations of week-day church schools. The movement has made marked progress in the states of New York, Ohio, Kansas, South Dakota, and Oregon. In Oregon, Illinois, Michigan, Rhode Island, and Tennessee, the movement has been successfully carried into rural districts. It has been shown that week-day church schools can be maintained wherever public schools are established. It is evident that week-day religious education is an important means of reaching the spiritually neglected children of the nation.

Eighty per cent of the week-day church schools, which have been surveyed, have been found operating on time released by the public schools. The schools conducted without released time are comparatively small. Without released time, it seems evident that the week-day church school movement offers little aid in solving our major religious educational problems.

The progress of week-day church school work is seen not in its geographical expansion but in the attainment of higher standards in teaching, supervision, curriculum material, and character development. In the week-day church schools surveyed, it has been found that 54 per cent of the teachers are volunteers, 26 per cent are paid for part time and 20 per cent for full time. Sixty-seven per cent had normal or college training. Seventy-two per cent had had teaching experience in the public schools. Fifty-two per cent of the supervisors of these schools were under full time, and eleven per cent under part time pay. These figures compared with those of the survey of the Sunday schools in Indiana will indicate the progress being made. The curricula for week-day church schools has been rapidly multiplying recently. Several publishing houses have issued courses, some of the series providing for all grades.

It is difficult to measure the results of religious education. These have to do with character and, therefore, are slow in manifestation. Deeper religious values can never be measured objectively. Yet the evidence of the value of week-day religious education is not wanting. Improvement in conduct, increase in honesty, and roused civic interest has been reported by public school teachers and principals. Pastors of churches participating in week-day church schools report increased Sunday school attendance and enrollment, and accessions to church membership.

On the basis of a thorough survey of 104 week-day church schools, Professor Lotz says, "The consensus of opinion is almost unanimous to the effect that the week-day church school raises the educational standards of the Sunday school. This is done most generally by improving the teaching, by producing better informed pupils, and by improving the conduct of pupils. Over fifty per cent of the schools add new pupils to the Sunday school.

Referring to the future of the movement Dr. W. A. Squires says: "The week-day church school would seem to offer a solution to many of our most difficult religious educational problems. It gives promise of a day when the millions of neglected children of the nation shall be brought under the instruction of the church. Its possibilities are as unlimited as are the possibilities of American childhood."

STANDING BY THE ARMENIANS

Mr. Henry H. Riggs, who for several years has been in charge of the Board's work among the Armenian refugees in Beirut and vicinity, at the annual meeting gave a realistic picture of the conditions under which these stricken people live, ever struggling upward.

"The Armenian camp is one of the show places of Beirut. The crowds of American and European tourists leave their luxurious steamers and follow perhaps a morbid curiosity to see in a great camp poverty and squalor and misery and suffering carried to the nth degree. There in tiny shacks built of any material that could be found—driftwood, old boxes, gunny sacking, the ever-adaptable petroleum tin,—crowded into a couple of hundred acres of vacant land, live twelve thousand refugees,—a city huddled in a backyard. There they have their long rows of little shops where they try, by cutting prices, to tempt a few buyers; or manufacture, as best they can with primitive equipment, clothing, shoes, trunks, furniture,—anything that they can carry up into the city to sell for the few cents that will keep starvation from their doors. And there, in those wretched shanties, so different from the homes of comfort and sometimes luxury that they had deserted back in their homeland, the wife and daughters are bravely trying to make home—white curtains at the windows, pictures on the walls, a bit of a flower-bed in the foot or two of space between the shanty and the street traffic—until you almost forget the misery and hopelessness of their condition in admiration of the marvelous tenacity with which these people cling to the ideals of life from which fate by a decade of buffetings has tried to tear them."

PICTURE STORIES

We have been greatly surprised at the small number of requests for missionary picture stories which we announced in the last issue of The Pacific. From the mail received the first day or two after publication, we thought they would all be gone in a few days. Any one desiring these pisture stories please write us, and we will ship them out promptly. This is your chance to get something for nothing, or at least for only the promise that they will be used.

WELCOME MRS. RILEY

On Wednesday, December 22nd, the Conference office became the scene of a marriage ceremony, when the Superintendent uttered the few words necessary to give Mr. Riley a bride. Many of our people know Mr. Riley, formerly pastor of our church in Trinity County, and will rejoice to learn of his new happiness. The couple are now living at Turlock.

CRUISING IN THE PACIFIC

Rev. George H. DeKay, after spending several months touring Pacific countries, returned to Berkeley a few weeks ago. He reports that, in the words of a popular song, "I had a wonderful time."

Leaving Honolulu about June first and stopping at Samoa and Fiji en route, he spent nearly seven weeks in Australia, visiting three states and speaking thirty-six times under the auspices of the Prohibition League. In Melbourne he spoke at the pleasant Sunday afternoon service of Wesley Chapel, which is probably the most popular service in all Australia, to an audience of eighteen hundred, with an estimated radio audience of fifty thousand. At a later service in the same place he spoke to twelve hundred people. Much interest was shown in his addresses and the press generally gave fine reports.

In spite of the power of the liquor trade, and its control over politics, business, and most of the press, prohibition sentiment is slowly but steadily gaining in Australia. The situation there now is similar to that in America thirty years ago.

In Australia Mr. DeKay was joined by Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Ward of our Congregational Church of Auburn, and the rest of the journey was made with them. Ten days were spent in Java, where they visited the famous old Buddhist temple at Bourabodour. Then via Singapore and Penang through the Malay States to Bangkok for a week. Here they visited the American Presbyterian Mission, making delightful acquaintance of the mission workers and visiting both the Boys and Girls Schools.

From Siam they went across the Gulf of Siam to Indo-China, and going two hundred and fifty miles inland, spent five days among the ruins of Augkor, a place known to but comparatively few travelers and visited by still fewer. Here in wonderful bas reliefs on the walls of the galleries of Augkor Thom and Augkor Vat are marvelously pictured the stories of a nation of whose origin but little is known, and still less of its ending.

Saigon (the Paris of the Orient), Hongkong, and Shanghai were visited and then Japan where the travelers parted company, Dr. and Mrs. Ward making but a few days visit while Mr. DeKay spent three weeks. During this time he lectured on Prohibition under the auspices of the National Temperance League of Japan and the Inter-Collegiate Prohibition Association sixteen times, speaking to more than thirty-five hundred students in schools and universities, and at various public meetings. He attended sessions of the National Conference of Kumiai Churches, the National Christian Council, and of a great conference in Tokyo called to discuss and protest the licensed prostitution which has so long been entrenched in Japanese life. He visited and spoke at the Doshisha as the guest of Miss Mary Denton. Mr. DeKay says he thinks everyone in Kyoto, including the 'ricksha coolies knows Miss Denton, and to say she is your friend is an open sesame with every tradesman. Part of two days was spent with Rev. and Mrs. Voorhies at Omi Mission. Here one may learn a very real "romance of missions" and see demonstrated the power of "faith as a mustard seed."

Since his return Mr. DeKay has been quite ill at the home of his son in Berkeley, but is recovering nicely. Friends will be interested to know that he has been recalled to the position which he resigned last May as Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Hawaii. He will return to Honolulu on the S. S. "Manoa," leaving San Francisco January 26th.

THE BUDDHA AT TANJAT MONDUT

In Mendut's holy Shrine, serene and
undisturbed by all the feverish
life without
Great Buddha sits alone.

Heavy the burdens the people bear,
Many the sorrows together they share.
What dost thou offer, thou God of
stone,
To these who need release from sin,
Rest from their ceaseless toil?
What hope have they?
Can'st give what lowly Jesus gave?
Who trusts in Him doth truly live.
Who comes to Him for peace and rest
Find both.
Ah! Christ is best. —DeKay.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Announcement has been made of the personnel of the team sent out by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, for the three-day Stewardship Conference, January 22, 24, to be held in the First Congregational Church, San Francisco. They are:

Dr. David McConaughy of the Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Harry S. Meyers, of the Baptist Church.

Dr. Luther E. Lovejoy, of the Methodist Church.

Dr. David G. Latshaw, of the National Council, Y. M. C. A.

At the urgent solicitation of the religious forces of the nation, these inter-denominational conferences on Christian Stewardship, with the co-operation and under the auspices of the local church federations, have always had a most gratifying response and with great profit to the religious bodies participating.

OUR MISSIONARIES IN CHINA

Rev. R. B. Whitaker of Lintsing, China, was in this morning and we told him about the many telephone calls we had had recently from newspapers concerning our missionaries in China. These newspapers wanted the names of all Californians in China, and their home addresses here, and wanted to know if we had heard anything from them. Mr. Whitaker returned from China last summer on a furlough, and according to his opinion the situation is not nearly so serious as it would appear. The American Board has turned over the Canton mission to the Chinese, and Rev. Obed S. Johnson has just returned to this country. Mr. Whitaker has recently heard from Dr. Alma Cooke, who was then in India, and she will soon be home on furlough. Mr. Whitaker wishes to tell the friends of our missionaries in China not to be too anxious until we have more definite information about conditions there.

MISS FOX OFF FOR MINDANAO

The Conference office has just had a short call from Miss Florence L. Fox, who is returning to her work in Mindanao. She says that the nationalistic spirit is growing among the Filipinos as it is among the people of all other countries. All of our returning missionaries report that this spirit is strong and rapidly growing.

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION
Berkeley, California

Designated by the Congregational Conference of California for student training and support.

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The Holbrook Library
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Stockton—The fall program of the Stockton church included an eight weeks' series of special addresses on Sunday evenings. These addresses all dealt with things of interest in other parts of the world. The speakers in every instance were prepared by personal experiences and first hand study to discuss their respective themes. One whole month was devoted to the Moslem world. Three addresses by Dr. Fred F. Goodsell and one by Miss Lynda Goodsell brought a vivid picture of present conditions in Turkey and other parts of the Near East. The interpretation of Christian missions by Dr. Goodsell has helped many to see the value of that work in a new light. Both Dr. Goodsell and his daughter were invited to carry the story further into the community. Mr. T. Y. Wang spoke on the Youth Movement in China to an interested audience and gave quick, definite and able answers to questions.

President Tully C. Knoles of the College of the Pacific, just back from a tour of Europe with a Sherwood Eddy party, spoke on Prospects of Peace and War in Europe.

Dr. Wm. F. Bade gave an illustrated lecture on his archaeological work in Palestine. The pictures are exceptionally fine and Dr. Bade's lecture was as vivid and interesting as the best of pictures.

Plans are going forward for the new church building. Last May a successful campaign for $100,000 was made. Most of this was in three year pledges. The money is coming in and being invested. Meanwhile the committee and architect are working toward a first formulation of plans. In October, the pastor and the architect, Mr. W. W. Wurster, visited churches in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego and have since studied those of Northern California. The church will not begin construction until the larger parts of the money pledged is in hand.

Plans for Christmas included two Sunday evenings, the 19th and the 26th. On the 19th a pageant, "The Child of Bethlehem," was presented by the Church School. This pageant was written by Dr. W. Carleton Wood, of the College of the Pacific, who helped supervise its presentation.

On the evening of the 26th the choir sang a cantata, "Morn of Glory," by Peace.

The Church School has adopted an orphan in the Near East and turns the collection on the evening of its pageant to that use.

PALO ALTO NOTES

The church has just built a necessary addition to the kitchen and paid for it with a special Thanksgiving offering. This makes possible the continuance of the monthly church-night suppers, at which attendance now runs above 150. These suppers are arranged on a co-operative basis by a different committee of women each month. No charge is made, but it is understood that those who have not been asked for a contribution of food will make a cash offering.

The budget adopted for 1927 increases the salary of the pastor from $3900 to $4000. The supporters of the church have the habit of responding so promptly with their pledges to the budget statement mailed them by the trustees, that the every-member canvass has been reduced to a few scattering calls.

At a recent meeting of the congregation the trustees were instructed to search for a suitable piece of ground which can be acquired for a new church edifice.

This church, which usually holds only a Sunday morning service, marks the Sunday before Christmas by adding two other services. The five o'clock candle-light service of Christmas carols was particularly effective this year as rendered by the large vested choir. Tea was served afterward in the parlors, and at 7:30 the church was filled again for the Forefathers Day program, on which the presence of Dr. David Starr Jordan was an attractive feature.

The Sunday school has broken all previous records of attendance, and is particularly proud of the number of classes who score 100 per cent. The senior high school boys, led this year by Rowland B. Dodge, are now organized as the Young Men's Congregational Club. They recently made a visit to San Francisco, inspecting the new Telephone Building and the newspaper plant of the Chronicle, and being entertained by Mr. Dodge at luncheon in a private dining room of the Clift Hotel.

On the morning after Christmas the Sunday school hour was largely occupied by a two-act dramatization of the mission of St. Boniface to the German tribes. The play was presented by the senior high school boys and girls under the direction of Mrs. Franklin P. Nutting.

Sacramento—Co-incident with going into the new church vestments were provided for a choir of fifty. Three different Sunday evenings have been devoted to sacred music, two of them under the direction of Mrs. F. W. Hodgdon and one under the direction of Mr. Stewart Tulley of the Sacramento Junior College, at all of which it was necessary to bring in chairs to supplement the seating capacity of the pews.

On Sunday, December 19th a beautiful twenty tone set of Deagan chimes were presented to the church and dedicated. On Sunday, December 26th a set of powerful flood lights was presented to the church for the purpose of illuminating the beautiful Gothic tower. The church is also very happy because of the presentation of five hundred hymn books by Miss Juliette Alexander.

Tulare—It is with regret that we lose from the Conference bounds the genial pastor of our church at Tulare. Mr. Gould has been a member of our fellowship for many years, and has been pastor at Tulare for the past seven years. He has accepted a call to the Congregational Church at Saticoy, in the Southern California Conference, and is at work.

Fresno—The Annual Meeting of the First Church of Fresno was held December 15. The treasurer reported his department as being square with the world except as to a Building Society loan which is being paid in monthly installments.

The membership committee presented a graph which showed a steady growth from a membership of 135 in 1912 to 347 at the present time. Each year has witnessed a slight increase.

W. A. Conn, a member of long and honored standing, spoke in reminiscent vein of people who have given much in service to the church in years past. George W. Graves, a newer member, spoke with discriminating insight of what a church of this present day may hope to accomplish.

The Sunday evening forum is proving an important feature of the church life. Since November 1st the building has been filled to capacity nearly every Sunday evening. People have shown themselves willing to contribute enough to pay the expense involved. Thus far the forum seems to almost finance itself. The lectures have elicited a great deal of favorable comment from people who do not habitually attend church services. They seem to be filling a decided need in the community. Some have feared that the larger evening crowds will create in the minds of members and others the idea that the church is an open forum. This the church would guard against; for while a church may well have an open forum, it must be a place of worship.

Ceres—The pastor has found the plan of a Question Box very helpful, putting it on once a month, and it is increasingly popular. In addition to these monthly services, he has obtained six Sunday morning sermons and several mid-week talks from the people's questions.

In preparation for the Every Member Canvass this year, two new plans were tried. Having a large home-made poster, about 5 by 7 feet, hanging before the people all the month, and using a different poster each Sunday as a text for the "Four-Minute Men," who were all from the young people—not a one of them refused when the chairman of the Steering Committee asked them to thus help. It gives one a thrill to see such fine dependability on the part of the young folk. More power to them in all our churches!

Ceres Church put on four big feature events for Christmas, the best of all being the beautiful pageant, "The Coming of Immanuel," under the auspices of Mrs. Atkinson. The building was crowded to the doors and many standing. The pastor planned a Christmas mid-week service, with 75 Christmas envelopes on the little tree for those present, and most of them were taken! The pastor gave out 45 calendars to present and former members of his Sunday School class, a pretty good record for a little country church.

A unique contest is being conducted for the evening service. Two weeks ago the pastor gave a booklet by Drummond to the one inviting the most to the evening service. The next week he gave a book by Dr. C. H. Patton to the one having at the evening service the most there whom he had invited. The third Sunday evening a book by Dr. McCall of Berkeley to the one actually **bringing** the most to the service! The contest has attracted considerable attention.

The annual meeting of the church is the first Wednesday in January, and they are facing the future with a fine courage and genuine satisfaction.

Alturas—Sunday the 12th of December was a very happy day for the Alturas Congregation.

It was the occasion of the re-dedication of the church building. For several weeks painters and carpenters were busy altering and decorating the entire interior. The ceiling and walls of the auditorium are painted ivory, the woodwork buff and the seats cream. The floor a warm grey.

The wall back of the pulpit is papered with a rich embossed gold design. Along the top of the windows and the wall between runs a green and black molding, which is a splendid contrast to the color of the walls and ceiling.

An Altar rail covered with a golden brown curtain is placed along the front of the platform and a new tapestry altar cloth graces the pulpit.

Black rubber matting is laid in the aisles. The windows are red-ecorated with Par-O-Phane, having a small design in green and red. Up-to-date electric lamps hung close to the ceiling with frosted globes of a pretty design have taken the place of the old hanging lights.

The annex and kitchen have been re-papered and painted in harmony with the auditorium and electric lamps installed.

The roof of the building was stripped and re-shingled. The exterior of the church and parsonage will be painted in the spring.

The color scheme of the entire building is in excellent taste and the auditorium is now a beautiful sanctuary where the members and friends may worship God in material as well as in spiritual beauty.

The Alturas people are to be congratulated on the splendid manner in which they have planned and worked to bring about these much needed improvements. Altogether the entire cost will reach $1,000.

Much sacrificial giving was necessary to bring this work to a successful realization.

Suisun—We rejoice with the church in the return of Rev. Alfred Pollard to his pulpit, after an absence of some weeks following an operation for appendicitis.

Pacific Grove—The annual meeting of Mayflower Congregational Church of Pacific Grove was held in the parlors of the church the evening of December 30th, with a very good attendance. The reports of the different societies were encouraging, showing the condition of the church to be excellent. The Women's Missionary Society has raised $332, during the year, part of which has gone to help the Japanese mission work in Monterey. The Women's Aid Society has raised and disbursed $324. Over $800 was raised this evening to pay for various improvements around the church. The church also voted an increase in the pastor's salary. They start the new year with all bills paid and money in the treasury.

In November a Roll Call meeting was held, with a large number in attendance. After the calling of the Roll, various matters connected with the church work were discussed, among them being the missionary budget. It was decided to raise not less than the minimum $500 and as much more as possible.

Altogether, the church feels very much encouraged with the outlook and expect under the able leadership of the pastor, Rev. I. M. Dryer, that this will be one of the best years they have had. A spirit of enthusiasm runs through all the membership.